

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 30, wherein the waiting time of the second waiting period depends on the weight of the food.

REMARKS

The official office action dated October 7, 2003 has been carefully considered.

Applicants are appreciative of the Examiner's indication that claims 24 and 25 are allowable and that claims 1-23 and 26-34 are free of prior art and would be allowable if amended to overcome the objections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 1-26 and 28-34 remain in the application. Claims 1-3, 7, 10-14, 26, 28-31, 33 and 34 have been revised to overcome the objections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 27 has been canceled. The claims as presented are believed to be fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is believed or intended to be involved. As a result, Applicants believe the changes presented herewith, are sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

*Claim Objections*

In claims 30 and 31, the phrase "characterized in that" should be changed to "wherein" in order to conform with terminology used in U.S. claim practice. Applicants have revised claims 30 and 31.

In claim 34, line 1, the phrase "any one of claims 30" should be changed to read "claim 30". Applicants have revised claim 30.

Claims 1-3, 7, 10-14, 26, 29, 30 and 33 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly

claim the subject which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the terms "preferably" and "advantageously" are indefinite. Applicants have revised claims 1-3, 7, 10-14, 26, 29, 30 and 33. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

In addition, the limitation "no additional microwave energy is supplied to the oven cavity" recited in claim 27 is indefinite because it is a negative limitation. Applicants have canceled claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

For the reasons presented above, it is believed that the application, as now presented, is in condition for allowance, and that there are no remaining issues in the application. Allowance of the application as now presented, and passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that this amendment does not so place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that he promptly contact applicants undersigned attorney by telephone at the number shown below so that suitable steps may be taken to place the application in such condition.

Further and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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